WHOSE SIDE...
...ARE YOU ON?

THE MARVEL UNIVERSE IS CHANGING. AFTER THE RASH ACTIONS OF FOUR YOUNG HEROES CAUSE THE DESTRUCTION OF THE CITY OF STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT, THE PUBLIC CALLS FOR REFORM IN THE WAY SUPER HEROES CONDUCT THEIR AFFAIRS. A SUPERHUMAN REGISTRATION ACT IS PROPOSED, WHICH WOULD REQUIRE ALL THOSE POSSESSING PARANORMAL ABILITIES TO REGISTER WITH THE GOVERNMENT. REACTION AMONG THE SUPER HEROES IS SPLIT DOWN THE MIDDLE, WITH AN AWOL CAPTAIN AMERICA ON ONE SIDE AND A PRO-REGISTRATION IRON MAN ON THE OTHER. CIVIL WAR SEEMS INEVITABLE...

MARVEL®

CIVIL WAR™

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STEVE MCNIVEN

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A MARVEL COMICS® EVENT IN SEVEN PARTS

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CIVIL WAR

Hoping to boost their ratings, four New Warriors--young super heroes and reality television stars--attempt to apprehend a quartet of villains holed up in Stamford, Connecticut. When confronted, the explosive Nitro employs his self-detonation ability, blowing the heroes and a large chunk of Stamford into oblivion. The entire incident is caught on tape.

Casualties number in the hundreds.

In response to this tragedy, public sentiment is turning against super heroes. Johnny Storm, the Human Torch, is attacked outside a nightclub and beaten into a coma. Advocate Miriam Sharpe, who lost her son in the Stamford Disaster, calls for reform in the way super heroes conduct their affairs. On Capitol Hill, a Superhuman Registration Act is debated which would require all those possessing paranormal abilities to register with the government, divulging their true identities to the authorities and submitting to training and sanctioning in the manner of federal agents.

Some heroes, such as Iron Man, see this as a natural evolution of the role of superhumans in society, and a reasonable request. Others, embodied by Captain America, take umbrage at this assault on their civil liberties.

When Captain America is called upon to hunt down his fellow heroes who are in defiance of the Registration Act, he chooses to go AWOL, becoming a public enemy in the process.

In a closed-door meeting with the President and his Cabinet, Iron Man, Mr. Fantastic and Yellowjacket vow to bring Cap to ground.

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CAPTAIN AMERICA GOES UNDERGROUND:

LUNATIC BROKE MY DAMN *NOSE.*

I THOUGHT YOU IDIOTS WERE SUPPOSED TO BE *HUNTING HIM DOWN* OR SOMETHING.

MORE BAD GUYS, UNIT FIVE?

TWO UP *HERE*, AND THE BOYS DOWNSTAIRS SAY THEY'VE GOT *THE TRAPSTER* CHAINED TO A SINK IN *THE MEN'S ROOM.*

HOW MANY DOES *THE VULTURE* AND *THE GRIM REAPER* TAKE HIM UP TO, COMMANDER HILL? IS THAT *EIGHT* OF THESE FREAKS, OR *NINE?*

WASTE

S.H.I.E.L.D. HELICARRIER, SIX MILES ABOVE NEW YORK CITY:

FIFTEEN, SERGEANT. FIFTEEN *SUPER-CRIMINALS* INSIDE *SEVENTY-TWO HOURS.*

BUT THE NUMBERS DON'T *ADD UP.* THERE'S JUST *NO WAY* CAPTAIN AMERICA COULD'VE TAKEN DOWN ALL THESE GUYS AT ONCE. IT'S PHYSICALLY *IMPOSSIBLE.*

MEANING?

SHIELD

OUR *NIGHTMARE SCENARIO*, UNIT FIVE.

I DON'T THINK HE'S *ON HIS OWN* ANYMORE.

New York Times

REGISTRATION ACT PASSED BY CONGRESS

DAILY BUGLE

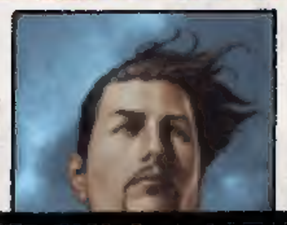
CAPTAIN AMERICA GOES INTO HIDING

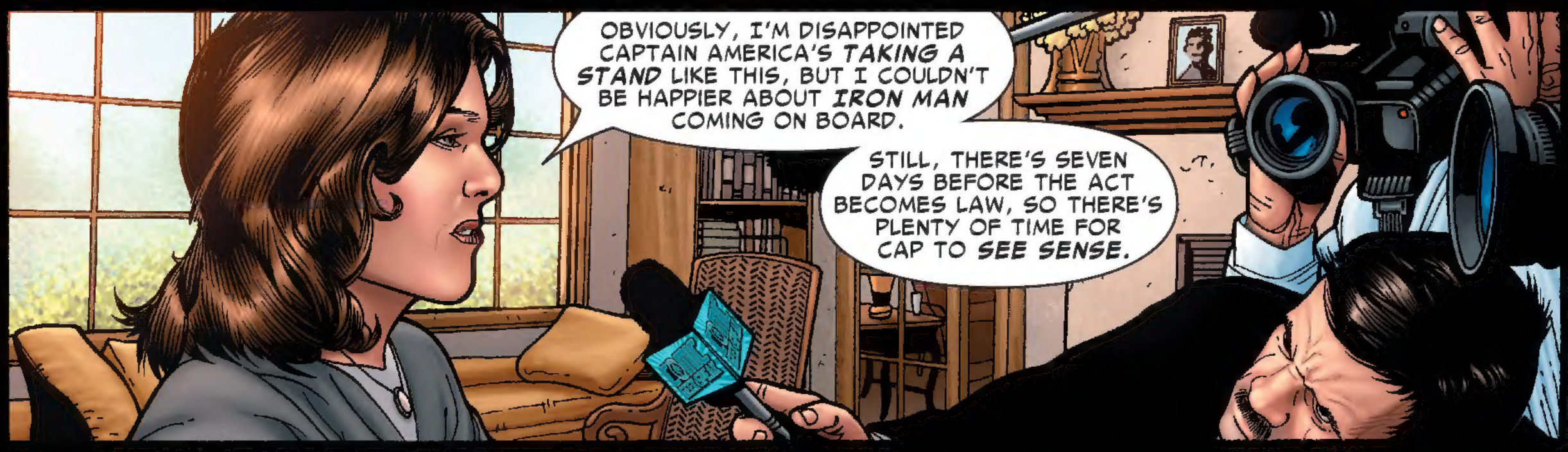
The Boston Globe

PRESIDENT PROMISES SWIFT ACTION

The Washington Post

TONY STARK NOW BACKING SUPER HERO REFORM




OBVIOUSLY, I'M DISAPPOINTED CAPTAIN AMERICA'S *TAKING A STAND* LIKE THIS, BUT I COULDN'T BE HAPPIER ABOUT *IRON MAN* COMING ON BOARD.
STILL, THERE'S SEVEN DAYS BEFORE THE ACT BECOMES LAW, SO THERE'S PLENTY OF TIME FOR CAP TO *SEE SENSE.*

HEAR THAT? THAT'S THE SOUND OF PEOPLE STARTING TO BELIEVE IN SUPER HEROES AGAIN.

WILL WE STILL TECHNICALLY *BE* SUPER HEROES AFTER ALL THIS, TONY? WON'T WE JUST BE *S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENTS* WHEN WE'RE ALL ON THE FEDERAL PAYROLL?

NO, WE'RE SUPER HEROES, JENNIFER. WE TACKLE SUPER-CRIME AND WE SAVE PEOPLE'S LIVES.

THE ONLY THING CHANGING IS THAT THE KIDS, THE AMATEURS, AND THE SOCIOPATHS ARE GETTING WEEDED OUT.

WHAT CATEGORY DOES *CAPTAIN AMERICA* FALL INTO, IRON MAN?

HE'S WRONG THIS TIME, TIGRA.

TRUST ME.

THE BAXTER BUILDING, HOME OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR:

HOW'S *THE PROJECT* COMING ALONG, REED?

LIKE A DREAM. TONY'S BIG PLAN FOR THE SUPERHUMAN COMMUNITY IS THE MOST EXCITING THING WE'VE EVER WORKED ON, SUE.

HE WASN'T KIDDING WHEN HE SAID HE'D REVOLUTIONIZE EVERY META-HUMAN IN AMERICA. I HAVEN'T BEEN THIS ***EXCITED*** SINCE I SAW MY FIRST BLACK HOLE.

YEAH, WELL. MAYBE I'D BE EXCITED ***TOO*** IF HIS GENIUS PLAN DIDN'T MEAN JAIL FOR HALF OUR ***CHRISTMAS CARD LIST.***

AGREED. BUT THEY DON'T LEAVE US ANY CHOICE IF THEY REFUSE TO ***REGISTER,*** HONEY. JUST TAKE A LOOK AT MY PROJECTIONS IF YOU NEED TO SEE THE ***SOCIAL DANGERS*** THEY'RE CREATING.

WHAT ARE YOU *TALKING* ABOUT? THIS IS GOBBLEDYGOOK.

NO, IT'S THE EXPONENTIAL CURVE THE NUMBER OF SUPER-BEINGS IS FOLLOWING AND THE *APOCALYPSE* WE'RE FACING IF UNLICENSED ACTIVITY ISN'T BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL.

TONY'S SECRET PLAN IS AN AMAZING OPPORTUNITY FOR US, DARLING.

YOU SHOULD HEAR THE IDEAS HE AND *HANK PYM* HAVE BEEN TOSSING AROUND. THEY'RE LIKE *CONCEPT-MACHINES*. I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER *SEEN* PEOPLE THIS SUPER-CHARGED.

WHAT'S THIS "*NUMBER FORTY-TWO*" THING...?

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I'M SORRY, SUSAN, BUT I'M AFRAID THAT'S *CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.*

OH.

RIGHT.

WELL, I GUESS IT'S TIME I WAS MAKING TRACKS FOR THE HOSPITAL *ANYWAY*, HUH?

MM.

GIVE *JOHNNY* ALL MY *LOVE.*

THE DAILY BUGLE:

JONAH, WE JUST GOT WORD ABOUT A HUGE PRESS CONFERENCE TONY STARK IS HOLDING TOMORROW MORNING. URICH IS IN, BUT PARKER'S *OUT OF TOWN.* WHO DO YOU WANT TO SEND IN HIS *PLACE?*

JONAH?

SORRY, ROBBIE. MILES AWAY.

JUST THINKING ABOUT HOW, AT MIDNIGHT TONIGHT, EVERYTHING THIS NEWSPAPER HAS EVER *CAMPAIGNED FOR* OFFICIALLY BECOMES *LAW.*

NO MORE *MASKS* AND NO MORE EXCUSES ABOUT CREEPY *SECRET IDENTITIES.* THESE CLOWNS FINALLY *WORK FOR S.H.I.E.L.D.* OR THEY THROW THEIR BUTTS IN *JAIL.*

YOU REALLY THINK THE SUPER HEROES ARE ALL GOING TO *SIGN UP?*

HOLLOWVILLE MURDERS SOLVED

NO. JUST THE SMART ONES.

TONY STARK'S PENTHOUSE:

TWENTY MINUTES TO GO, TONY. WORD FROM S.H.I.E.L.D. IS THAT WE'RE LOOKING AT THIRTY-EIGHT SIGNATURES ALREADY. THAT'S PRETTY MUCH WHAT YOU *ESTIMATED*, RIGHT?

PRETTY MUCH, HAPPY. ANY WORD FROM CAP?

ONLY THAT HE'S PUTTING HIS *OWN* TEAM TOGETHER AND HE'LL SEE THIS THING TO THE *FINISH*.

OH, GOD.

PLEASE LET US BE DOING THE RIGHT THING HERE...

MIDNIGHT:

REGISTRATION ACT BECOMES LAW

SONY

REGISTRATION ACT BECOMES LAW REGISTRATION

24 HOURS LATER:

HUFF.
HUFF.
HUFF.
HUFF.

UNREGISTERED MINOR TRIED TO FOIL A ROBBERY IN *COSTUME*, AIR-COMMAND. IDENTIFIED AS CODENAME *PATRIOT* FROM THE *YOUNG AVENGERS*. AM CURRENTLY IN PURSUIT.

ROGER THAT, FOXTROT-FOUR. PERMISSION TO USE TRANQUILIZERS AND MINIMUM FORCE.

THIS LITTLE PUNK IS *BULLETPROOF* NOW?

DAMN INFO-BASE. I THOUGHT WE HAD FOLKS *UPDATING* THIS THING.

LV FEEDER 7

AAGHN!

PASSES
ACT
ISTRATION

GUYS, WE GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE! S.H.I.E.L.D. JUST CAUGHT ME BREAKING UP A MUGGING, AND NOW THEY'RE ALL OVER ME!

THIS IS SERIOUS! THESE GUYS ARE NOT MESSING AROUND!

OH, BOY--

YOU SURE THAT KID'S *INDESTRUCTIBLE?*

HE'LL BE FINE. IT'S THE *OFFICE BLOCK* I'M WORRIED ABOUT, DUDE. COMMAND SAID *PROPERTY DAMAGE* GOTTA BE KEPT TO A *MINIMUM* OR IT'S *HEAD-ROLLING TIME.*

YOU SEE THE *TROUBLE* YOU CAUSED? YOU SEE WHAT *HAPPENS* WHEN YOU TRY TO BE SOME BIG BAD VIGILANTE LIKE YOUR BUDDY, *CAPTAIN AMERICA?*

ELSEWHERE:

S.H.I.E.L.D. UNIT JUST PICKED UP THE YOUNG AVENGERS ON WEST 23RD. SHOULD WE GET A POSSE TOGETHER AND INTERCEPT?

CAP AND THE FALCON ARE ALREADY UNDERCOVER ON THE *SCENE,* DAREDEVIL. COCKY MISTER WILSON EVEN TOLD ME TO GET THE DAMN *COFFEE* ON.

SEE, THIS IS WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT: THESE KIDS ARE WHAT--SIXTEEN YEARS OLD? SEVENTEEN, TOPS? AND THEY'RE OUT THERE IN THEIR PANTYHOSE *LAUGHING* IN OUR *FACES*.

IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE *BANNING* 'EM, MAN. NOBODY'S *STOPPING* 'EM DOING THEIR THING. HELL, THEY'RE EVEN *PAYING* THESE CLOWNS TO GO OFFICIAL NOW.

BUT THEY DON'T GET A *BUZZ* OUTTA BEIN' LEGIT. FREAKS ONLY *GET OFF* ON THE MASKS AND THAT *"MYSTERY MAN"* GARBAGE.

GONNA BE ONE COLD SHOWER WHEN THEY SEE THE NEW PEN THEY'RE BUILDING FOR THESE SUPER-CREEPS. YOU HEARD ABOUT THIS PLACE? THIS *"NUMBER FORTY-TWO"* THING THEY'RE CONSTRUCTIN'?

FRANK IN SUPPLIES SAID YOU'RE NOT EVEN ALLOWED TO LOOK AT *THE BLUEPRINTS* WITHOUT THESE WEIRD-ASS *SPECIAL GOGGLES.*

YOU KNOW SOMETHING, FELLA?

YOU *TALK* TOO MUCH!

Newark
Kearny

SON OF A--!

WICCAN, I NEED YOU TO RUSTLE UP ONE OF YOUR *TELEPORTATION SPELLS* AND I NEED IT *NOW*. UNDERSTAND?

Y-YES, SIR.

ATTENTION ALL UNITS IN THE GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE AREA! SUSPECTED HIJACKING OF S.H.I.E.L.D. BUS ONE!

PLEASE ATTEND! I REPEAT: PLEASE ATTEND!

COPS ARE BLOCKING THE ROAD *ALREADY*, FALCON!

WOULD YOU *HURRY UP* WITH THAT *FREAKIN' SPELL?*

IWANTTO BESOMEWHERE ELSEIWANTTO BESOMEWHERE ELSE...

LUNATICS ARE GONNA KILL THEMSELVES! BLOCK THE ROAD AND STAND WELL BACK!

ROGER THAT, AIR-SUPPORT!

IWANTTO BESOMEWHERE ELSEIWANTTO BESOMEWHERE ELSE...

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UNGH!

OH, GOD. WHAT'S HAPPENING?

WHERE ARE WE?

CONGRATULATIONS, CHILDREN.

YOU JUST JOINED THE *RESISTANCE.*

WHAT...WHAT *IS* THIS PLACE?

S.H.I.E.L.D. SAFE HOUSE NUMBER TWENTY-THREE. ONE OF TWENTY-EIGHT SUCH PLACES PEPPERING THE GLOBE AND ONLY KNOWN TO THIRTY-THIRD-DEGREE S.H.I.E.L.D. OFFICERS.

AND HOW MANY OF *THEM* ARE THERE EXACTLY?

JUST NICK FURY.

HE'S UNDERGROUND NOW TOO, AND CAN ONLY BE CONTACTED VIA SCRAMBLER-PHONE, BUT HE SAID WE COULD USE THIS PLACE FOR AS LONG AS WE LIKE. AND HE'S ALREADY WORKING ON OUR NEW SECRET I.D.S.

WHY DO WE NEED NEW SECRET IDENTITIES?

YOUR OLD ONES ARE PROBABLY COMPROMISED, PATRIOT, AND YOU'RE GOING TO NEED *SOMEWHERE* TO HIDE WHEN WE AREN'T OUT THERE KICKING ASS AND TAKING NAMES.

THIS IS WHERE WE LIVE FOR THE *DURATION.*

TONY'S CREW IS PLANNING SOMETHING *HUGE* OUT THERE, AND THIS IS WHERE WE START TO *FIGHT BACK.*

GUYS, I THINK YOU BETTER *SEE* THIS...

WASHINGTON, D.C.:

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I'M SURE I DON'T HAVE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO MRS. MIRIAM SHARPE.

MRS. SHARPE, YOU MAY RECALL, LOST HER SON IN THE STAMFORD INCIDENT AND KICK-STARTED MY PASSION FOR THE FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT OF *ALL SUPER HEROES.*

HELL'S GOING ON NOW...?

LIKEWISE, I'M PRETTY SURE *SPIDER-MAN* NEEDS NO INTRODUCTION...

I HOPE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE *DOING* HERE, TONY...

UM, AS MOST OF YOU PROBABLY KNOW, I'VE, UH, GUARDED MY SECRET IDENTITY *PRETTY CAREFULLY* OVER THE YEARS...

...AND IT'S ONLY AFTER A LONG TALK WITH MY WIFE AND FAMILY THAT I'VE DECIDED TO TAKE THE FOLLOWING STEP.

SEE, THE REGISTRATION ACT GIVES US A **CHOICE**: WE CAN CONTINUE THE TREND THAT *CAPTAIN AMERICA* ADVOCATES AND HAVE PEOPLE WITH POWERS **COMPLETELY UNCHECKED**...

...OR SUPER HEROES CAN GO **LEGITIMATE** AND EARN BACK A LITTLE PUBLIC TRUST.

MISTER JAMESON?

MISS GRANT, YOU EVEN *THINK* ABOUT ASKING ME WHAT I WANT FOR BREAKFAST AND YOU'RE *FIRED*, LITTLE LADY.

I'M NOT WEARING MY OLD MASK BECAUSE I'M *ASHAMED* OF WHAT I DO. I'M *PROUD* OF WHO I AM, AND I'M *HERE* RIGHT NOW TO *PROVE* IT...

MY NAME IS *PETER PARKER*, AND I'VE BEEN *SPIDER-MAN* SINCE I WAS *FIFTEEN YEARS OLD.*

MISTER JAMESON?

ANY QUESTIONS?

E
E
M
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P
I
ZOMBIE